

**IN THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-18 (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus according to claim 16~~ An Ethernet protocol network comprising:

a fiber ring infrastructure; and

a plurality of platforms coupled to the fiber ring infrastructure, each platform serving at least one customer for statistically multiplexing frames onto the fiber ring infrastructure from said one customer and for statistically de-multiplexing frames off the fiber ring infrastructure to the one customer,

wherein each platform sending a frame overwrites said frame with a customer descriptor that identifies the sending customer; and routes the frame on a path obtained by mapping the customer descriptor to such path, wherein the receiving platform maps the customer descriptor through an ATM switch router to a corresponding one of a plurality of Frame Relay and ATM Permanent Virtual Circuits.

Claims 20-25 (Cancelled)